

PIGPEN TO MEET POPE?

BY MICHAEL LYDON

The First European International Pop Festival, a resounding name for a still rather mysterious event, is being planned for Rome's huge Palazzo dello Sport February 19 to 25.

If it comes off and comes off well, it could be one of the biggest rock and roll shows of all time. But less than a month and a half before opening day, its organization seems chaotic and its origins shadowy.

By the second week in January the Festival organizers claimed to have signed seven British groups, and to have preliminary acceptances from 13

American (mostly San Francisco) groups. Invitations are also going out to bands from the Continent and all over the world.

Despite Monterey-like effusions about love and peace, plus promises to donate the proceeds to charity, the Rome Festival will be run on traditional European lines: performers will be paid, and a panel of judges will award eight "Golden Laurels" to the best groups. Thirteen four-hour shows are scheduled, making one-hour slots for 52 groups.

The seven English groups the Festival claims to have signed are Donovan, the Cream, the Who, Pink Floyd, Nice, the Crazy

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BEATLES ZAP USA LTD

The Beatles closed the offices of Beatles U.S.A., Ltd., their fan club and business office in this country, and fired their American press agent. They severed all business connections here and will conduct their activities entirely from England in the future.

There have been shake-ups in London too. The Beatles have withdrawn from NEMS, the agency started by the late Brian Epstein, their first — and only — manager. Apple, the Beatle-owned corporation that also runs the boutiques of the same name, will represent the group in all its future undertakings. This

move had been expected after Epstein's death, but its occurrence now caught many in the music business off stride.

Although the Beatles own substantial stock in NEMS, active direction of the agency passed to Clive Epstein, Brian's brother. Speculation on the reason for the move suggests that the Beatles wanted to remove themselves from the policies of the Epsteins and pursue their own ideas for producing music, films, television shows and other enterprises. There has been no indication that the Beatles intend to sell or otherwise dispose of their stock in NEMS.

MONTEREY FILM BUMMER

BY SUE C. CLARK

A one hour television film of the Monterey International Pop Festival, currently being produced for the American Broadcasting Company, has resulted in considerable consternation among the musicians who appeared at the Festival (and who may or may not appear in the film.) The film focuses so much on the activities and performance of the Mama's and Papa's to the point that performances of some of the best groups who appeared are left out, that Al Kooper, former organist and star of the Blues Project, says the television film appears to be about the "John Phillips-Lou Adler International Pop Festival."

Al Kooper, formerly of the Blues Project and now the leader of his own band, Blood, Sweat & Tears, discusses the film in a special review on Page 17.

The opening number of the festival film is Scott McKenzie's song (and McKenzie is a friend of Phillip and Adler, who produced his record, manage him and wrote the song) "Wear Flowers In Your Hair." The second song in the film is "Creeque Alley" by the Mamas and Papas. They also sing "California Dreamin'" and are shown directing, watchings, managing, supervising and speaking. Another curiosity is that the sound for

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DOORS UP FOR MOVIE

The Doors have been offered \$500,000 by Universal International pictures to star in a movie. The film, scheduled for production this spring, will be written, produced and directed by members of the group, who are still considering the offer. Also in the works is a television special on ABC later this spring.

Meanwhile, the Doors are breaking into print. Slated for February release by publisher Price/Stearn/Sloan in an edition

of singer Jim Morrison's lyrics, which will be printed as poetry. The book is a "coffee table" volume, handsomely designed and illustrated with lots of pictures of Morrison. All the Doors are involved with a Random House softcover humor book, which will also have photographs, these to be taken by the group.

Elektra is keeping the title of their next album a secret, but

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